



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff   Scott Smith Chief Deputy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Sheriff Dale J Schmidt

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## DODGE COUNTY PROJECT LIFESAVER PROGRAM UPDATE

In June, 2015, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office affiliated with Project Lifesaver International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help caregivers of and individuals who have a tendency to wander due to cognitive conditions such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, Down Syndrome and other similar conditions. In doing this, the agency's affiliation officially became Dodge County Project Lifesaver. The program involves caregivers of the people in need registering the individual to be fitted with a very small radio frequency transmitter to be utilized to quickly and safely locate the person, should they wander and not be immediately found.

In just over a year, the program has signed up 10 clients and currently has 8 clients on the roster. Those clients range in age from a few years old to seniors and include all of the above conditions. There were a few successful callouts in 2015, all of which resulted in finding the wandering person within minutes. To date in 2016, there have not been any emergency call outs. Referrals have come in from calls for service regarding individuals who have wandered, family and friends of individuals at risk to wander, as well as through government and private organizations. Notably, many referrals have come through caseworkers and other employees of Dodge County Human Services and Health Department who are already assisting the families.

Funding for the program continues to source primarily from Dodge County Human Services and the Dementia Concerns Coalition of Dodge County. There is a monthly fee to participate in the program of \$10 per month and funding options may be available through governmental organizations or local civic or religious groups for those families who cannot afford the fees. Donations to the program from the public are accepted and used to fund the program for those clients.

Additional information on the program may be found online at the Dodge County Sheriff's Office website [www.dodgecountysheriff.com](http://www.dodgecountysheriff.com) under the community programs tab and also at [www.projectlifesaver.org](http://www.projectlifesaver.org). You may also call or email Lt. Brian Loos 920-386-4117 [bloos@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:bloos@co.dodge.wi.us) or Deputy Jason Roy [jroy@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:jroy@co.dodge.wi.us) 920-386-4106.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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